

RTAP Services

To schedule training, request resources or technical assistance, please contact MnDOT RTAP Contracted Program Manager Debra Brisk at: (763) 257-7872 or deb.brisk@outlook.com. For further RTAP information visit www.mnrtp.us. Additional resources can be found on the National RTAP website at: nationalrtap.org.



Title VI

As a recipient of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding (49 USC Section 5307, Urbanized Area Formula Program), the Minnesota RTAP complies with Title VI regulations. Title VI compliance prohibits discrimination in any Federally-assisted program on the basis of race, color, or national origin. For additional information or to file a Title VI complaint contact the MnDOT RTAP Program Manager at: (651) 366-4177 or Harinee.Iyengar@state.mn.us



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Rural Transit Assistance Program



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Information available in alternative format upon request. Please contact Debra Brisk for alternate format requests

What is the Rural Transit Assistance Program-RTAP

Recognizing the unique needs of transit providers in rural areas, the Federal Transit Administration has administered the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) since 1987. The Rural Transit Assistance Program (49 U.S.C. 5311(b)(3)) provides funding to State Departments of Transportation through the Federal Transit Administration's 49 U.S.C Section 5311 Formula Grants for Other than Urbanized Areas (CFDA 20). Program funds are to assist in the design and implementation of training and technical assistance projects and other support services tailored to meet the needs of transit operators in non-urbanized areas. In Minnesota, the RTAP training program is administered by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), under a contract with Debra Brisk, MnDOT RTAP Contracted Program Manager.

A portion of the designated funding is reserved for the National RTAP; the remainder is distributed to the states by formula.

The goals of the National RTAP program are to promote the safe and effective delivery of public transportation services in rural areas and to facilitate more efficient use of public transportation resources. To meet those goals, the program focuses on the following objectives:

- Improving the quality of training and technical assistance resources available to the rural transit industry
- Encouraging and assisting state, local, and peer networks to address training and technical assistance needs
- Promoting the coordination of transportation services
- Building a national database of information about the rural transit industry

Since its inception, National RTAP has contributed to the achievement of these objectives at the national level by developing and distributing training materials, providing technical assistance, creating web-based applications, producing reports, publishing best practices, conducting research, and offering peer assistance for rural and tribal transit providers and state RTAP programs.

The National RTAP offers a broad variety of resources and training materials to rural transit providers throughout the United States. Additional information and National RTAP resources can be found at: <http://www.nationalrtap.org/Home>

What is the MnDOT RTAP and What Can We Do for YOU?

The MnDOT realizes that small urban, rural and tribal transit providers face many challenges as they work to provide critical transportation services for the residents of non-urbanized communities so they can get to work, school, medical facilities, shopping, and other destinations. In addition to low population densities, dispersed origins and destinations, and other operational difficulties, rural transit providers typically function with small staffs and limited resources. In order to assist 5307, 5310, 5311, and tribal transit providers, the MnDOT has designed an RTAP program that will put training, resources, and technical assistance at the fingertips of Minnesota's rural transit providers. The MnDOT RTAP program is provided under a contract with Debra Brisk. Debra Brisk has teamed with AECOM Inc. and RLS & Associates, Inc. to provide a full array of RTAP services throughout Minnesota. So, what can the MnDOT RTAP do for you? RTAP cannot only provide timely training that responds directly to the needs of Minnesota's transportation providers, but it can also provide valuable technical assistance and keep systems current with the most relevant information available through the new MnDOT RTAP website and quarterly newsletter.

Training: Investing in the future of transportation means investing in our transit staff, but that doesn't mean we have to allocate huge sums in the budget to do so. Training is one of the best ways to invest, and MnDOT RTAP not only provides training, but provides it free of charge. In addition, many of the related training expenses that you may incur (i.e. food, mileage) may be eligible for a scholarship to cover these costs. The RTAP program provides training on several topics including passenger assistance techniques (PAT), Defensive Driving, and pre-trip inspections. Please visit the MnDOT RTAP website for a full list of the training programs that are available, please keep in mind that trainings can be modified to meet the unique needs of different types of programs (volunteer driver, tribal, etc.).

Technical Assistance: What does origin to destination mean? I have a passenger who is incontinent, can I refuse to transport them? What are the requirements for securing oversize/overweight passengers? These are just a few of the questions the RTAP staff field. Some of the more common questions are used to develop the 'dear RTAP' articles published in the quarterly newsletter. All questions or requests for technical assistance are thoroughly researched and responded to in a timely fashion based on the complexity of the issue. This can be an invaluable resource to transportation providers in ensuring compliance with the various regulatory requirements. So, don't hesitate to contact the MnDOT RTAP staff with your questions.

MnDOT RTAP (continued)

Website and Newsletter: The newsletter is produced quarterly and includes important program information from MnDOT as well as other topic specific articles developed by the RTAP staff. All articles are designed to address specific needs of Minnesota's transportation providers and can be used as a tool during safety meetings, posted on bulletin boards in the transit office or driver's area, used as payroll stuffers, or as part of a local agency newsletter, if applicable. Many articles act as a means of technical assistance that transportation providers can reference as situations arise. Although the newsletter is distributed each quarter via a mass emailing to all Minnesota transportation providers, it is also posted each quarter on the RTAP website. In addition, the website contains various program information, news updates from MnDOT and RTAP, and other valuable resources. Special dates for conferences and training are also posted and kept current. To take full advantage of the services offered by MnDOT RTAP, plan to use RTAP to enhance and improve the management and operation of your system.

The MnDOT RTAP staff is dedicated to responding to the needs of Minnesota's transportation providers and providing the best services available in the industry. If you have a question, need assistance, or would like to schedule training, please contact the MnDOT Contract RTAP Program Manager at: d 855/299-1460 or visit us at the RTAP website at: (763) 257-7872 or deb.brisk@outlook.com or visit the MnDOT RTAP website at: www.mnrtap.us. Contact us today to find out how MnDOT RTAP can assist you!

